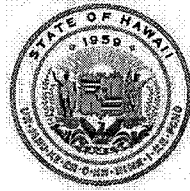


**GM 499**

**JOSEPHINE C. WOLL**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOSEPHINE C. WOLL, for a term to expire 6-30-2011.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
April 15, 2009

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health  
Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: GM 499 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Gubernatorial Nominee Josephine C. Woll**

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 499** to confirm the nomination of Josephine C. Woll for a term to expire June 30, 2011.

The Council's Federal mandate (P.L. 106-402) is clear in determining the composition of this body to ensure that all the players involved in the development, implementation, and use of DD supports are represented. The law specifically requires that 60 percent of the membership of the Council be comprised of individuals with DD, their parents, or family members. Additionally, the following agencies are required to be on the Council: Department of Health; the agencies that administer funds provided under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Older Americans Act of 1965; Titles V and XIX of the Social Security Act; the Protection and Advocacy Agency; the Centers for Excellence in DD Education, Research, and Service; agencies and private non-profit organizations concerned with services to individuals with DD. The Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership.

Mrs. Woll is a parent of a young woman with a disability. Her appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement of a parent serving on the Council.

Mrs. Woll's professional background as a Registered Nurse and extensive work experience in early intervention services as past director of Sultan Easter Seal School would be a great asset for the Council in the area of early childhood. She would be able to help the Council advocate for increasing access and utilization of Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment of children with special needs.

The Honorable David Y. Ige  
Page 2  
April 15, 2009

As a parent, she was instrumental in starting a national organization called Family Voices that became the voice for health care reform for children with special health care needs. With her past involvement and leadership with Family Voices, the Council would benefit through Mrs. Woll's participation on its Health and Early Childhood area of emphasis committee in assisting with activities to advocate for appropriate early intervention services to all infant and toddlers with DD and/or at risk for DD.

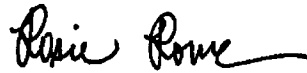
The Council is pleased with Mrs. Woll's nomination to serve on the Council and looks forward to her contributions to assure that family-centered, community-based, culturally appropriate services and supports will be available to all children with special needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 499** to confirm Josephine C. Woll to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral  
Executive Administrator



Rosie Rowe  
Chair

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA**

Center on Disability Studies

University Center on Excellence in Education, Research and Service

April 7, 2009

The Honorable David Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Ige:

**Re: Governor's Nominee to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities: # 499**

I am proud to support the Governor's nomination of Ms. Josephine (Josie) C. Woll to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. I have known Ms. Woll since 1987, when she was the Director of Sultan School at Hawai'i Easter Seals. I was Director of the Part C Hawai'i Zero to Three Early Intervention Program, which provides intervention services for special needs children from birth to age three.


Ms. Woll was member of a small group of leaders in our state who worked to get the Hawai'i to participate in the federally funded Part C program. She also served has a member of the Hawai'i Early Intervention Coordinating Council for many years, lending wise counsel to the Part C Program.

In addition to her activities in Hawai'i, Ms. Woll has been a recognized leader nationally for her many accomplishments. For example, she was one of the founders of Family Voices, a national family-led advocacy group working to improve health care access for children.

In addition to her 30 years of experience working with Easter Seals, Ms. Woll is also the mother of three children, one of whom is a young woman with developmental disabilities. Thus, she knows first hand the challenges facing families who have a child or sybling with a developmental disability. She can bring her unique perspective to the Council on Developmental Disabilities as it provides assistance to Hawai'i's families. Since the birth of her daughter three decades ago, she has mentored countless families and supported them as they sought to obtain services for their children. Families continue to call on her for advice and support.

Ms. Woll and her late husband, David, have been two of the strongest advocates for children with special health needs in Hawai'i. She is a woman with rare talents who knows how to effectively communicate issues involving people with special needs. When Josie Woll embraces a responsibility, she gives it her best. I am certain she will be an effective, hard-working, contributing member of the Council. Without reservation, I strongly support her nomination.

Sincerely,



Jean L. Johnson, DrPH  
Associate Director



**PACT**  
**PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER**  
*A Family Service Agency*

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March 24, 2009

Senator David Y. Ige  
 Chair  
 Senate Committee on Health  
 Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215  
 415 South Beretania Street  
 Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Ige:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of recommendation for Ms. Josie Woll, nominee for the Developmental Disabilities Council. I have known Ms. Woll for 29 years and can vouch for her personal and professional integrity, general all around smarts, and proven commitment to creating a responsive community environment of care for those with disabilities.

Ms. Woll understands the complex landscape of abilities/disabilities, both here in Hawaii as well as nationally. She is an active member of the advocacy group, Family Voices, has served on the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council and is a lifeline for parents of children born with disabilities. She is an expert in funding opportunities through Medicaid and private insurance, an expert in designing service delivery models that are grounded in family-driven and family centered care, and an experienced and seasoned board member.

As a parent of an infant born with Down Syndrome, I found my way through some of my darkest nights because I was lucky enough to have a telephone lifeline with Josie, patiently guiding me through my tears, ambiguity and frustration. As the mother of a now grown 29 year old, Josie continues to provide supportive acknowledgement, of both the developmental gains of my son as well as my gains as a parent and woman.

Josie is the best of many worlds and has the wisdom to walk through each with dignity and grace. Josie is a national treasure who happens to live in Hawaii. I recommend we take full advantage of her residency and recruit her for this very important role. If you would like to discuss this further, I can be reached at 792-9716.

Malama pono oe,

Haaheo Mansfield  
 Vice President of Programs

*The mission of Parents And Children Together is to promote and support healthy individuals, families and communities by creating opportunities for them to identify and address their own strengths, needs and concerns and successfully realize their potential*



## Family Voices of Hawai'i

2604 Pauoa Rd  
Honolulu, HI 96813

*Keeping families at the Center of Children's Health Care*

April 8, 2009

Senator David Ige  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Personal Reference for JOSEPHINE "JOSIE" WOLL, candidate for the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DDC)

Dear Senator Ige,

I have been asked by my personal mentor, Josie Woll to provide a letter of reference to endorse her appointment to the DDC. Words cannot convey my admiration and gratitude for having such a role model in my life. I first came to know Josie in 1995 when my son was diagnosed in the Autism Spectrum and was referred to Sultan Easter Seals for early intervention services. At the time, Sultan was a center based program. Josie had been the program administrator for over 20 years. She was able to bring her clinical skills as a registered nurse and her "parent" skills of having a child with significant health and developmental delays to every one of our encounters. Her perseverance and Can Do attitude was just what we needed as a family, beginning our journey with a child with a disability. Josie took our entire family under our wing, including my mother.

Josie introduced me to the wonderful world of child health advocacy. She brought me into the organization called Family Voices, which she, Polly Arango from New Mexico and Julie Beckett (mother of the Katie Beckett Medicaid Waiver) from Iowa, formed to address the concerns of families of children with special health care need as the Clinton administration began their universal health care reform. Family Voices began as a loose network around a kitchen table and has grown into a national organization which was embraced by the Clintons and has a presence in each state – and is 40,000 members strong.

The success of Sultan Easter Seals and Family Voices can be attributed in great part to Josie's knowledge, attitude and skill. She is able from an administrative perspective to ask the tough questions and to problem solve and facilitate the process to think strategically. From a family perspective, she is able to share the needs of families in a way that is comprehensive, descriptive and accurate. I have served with Josie on several work groups and her synergy is well respected and often needed. Her natural mentorship will assist the DDC in forming the next generation of advocates for our children and families. I highly endorse Josie Woll as an appointee to the DDC.

Aloha,

Leolinda Parlin  
State Coordinator